

INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO.

COUNTRY Hungary

DATE DISTR. 28 Sep 51

SUBJECT Air Raid Shelters and Radar Installations in Budapest

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SUPPLEMENT TO
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1. The south section of the former Clark Adam Square (present name not known) was partitioned off and elaborate tunneling projects initiated late in the fall of 1950. The Square is located between the Chain Bridge and the Buda Tunnel, and is tangent to the base of the hill on which the Var (Fortress Palace) stands. Both day and night shifts have been at work on this project. A small railroad track leads into a tunnel bored into the hillside and small cars are used to remove excavated material. This material is not stored about the project site but is quickly hauled away by truck.
 2. Many old tunnels dating from Roman and Turkish times have been cleaned out and made suitable for air-raid shelters. The site of these tunnels is close to the place where the Germans had an underground hospital during the last war.
 3. On the west side of the Var, along Varalja Street, are two tunnels opening into the Var Hill. Considerable excavation aimed at enlarging these was in progress during March and April of 1951. The walls of the Var are being redesigned in several places with the intention of reducing entrances to the Var area to a minimum. Along certain portions of the west wall, gardens which were started centuries ago, and have gradually been built up to the top of the stone wall, have been removed. At these points the Var wall is about forty feet high.
 4. Within the palace grounds on Szent Gyorgy Square considerable digging has been in progress. From the sounds emanating from this area, it appears that a pneumatic drill is being employed. The purpose of this digging may be an escape hatch or ventilation shaft for the shelters directly below. Several loud blasts were heard by residents of Buda in the early hours of 14 April 1951. These were described as underground blasts in the Var area.
 5. Additions to pre-war fortifications are being constructed along Verejtek, Gyopár and Kelenbagyi streets on the south slope of Cellert Hegy. An anti-aircraft unit is stationed in this neighborhood. Several wooden structures have been observed along the lower slopes of the hill. It is quite likely these could be forms for concrete pourings, i.e. buildings or sheds for housing of personnel or equipment. A concrete blockhouse stands off to the north on a higher level than the other buildings. It is presumed to be a radar station although no antenna network was visible.
 6. Huge walled-up caves or gun emplacements are built into the peak of the

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Sas Hegy along the circumference of the peak. The entire area is surrounded by wire fencing. These fortifications are said to have existed before the war. Scattered growths of evergreen on the hilltop obscure the view of the summit itself. There may be a radio or radar station in these woods.

7. There is a radio station on the Nagy Svábhegy along Eötvös Street where it leads off to the János Hegy at the intersection of Hegyhát Street. This station, possibly a former summer cottage, has four sets of double antennas on the roof. Some time ago it was mentioned that a Hungarian youth group had a "ham" station in this area.
8. It is difficult to discover what is being done in the Svábhegy and János Hegy area. The hills cover great areas of land and many of the roads are impassable because of disrepair. Most of the resorts on the summits of these hills have been taken over by youth groups, but installations of a military nature may be housed on the grounds of these places.
9. Martinovics Hegy is located off Istenehyi Street and very near the residence of many elite government officials. There is a concrete blockhouse surrounded by a fence and guarded by an AVH guard on the summit of this hill. The blockhouse was completed about a year ago.
10. Gúgger Hegy is obscured by an evergreen forest, making it impossible to check on blockhouses.
11. It has been rumored that underground corridors have been constructed from the AVH Headquarters along Szechenyi Rakpart down to the Danube. There have been no signs of digging or dredging in this part of Budapest which might tend to confirm this rumor.
12. A recent sanitation decree was issued ordering property owners to clean basements and attics of trash. Hence, for some time, most of the downtown streets were loaded with rubble, making it impossible to determine whether the rubble was the result of new shelter evacuations or wartime refuse collected in basements and attics. It is also possible that the shelters mentioned as being prepared in downtown Budapest (Honvéd, Falk Miksa, Vilma Királyné-- now Gorki Street) were those constructed in the last war and were recently cleaned out under the sanitation program mentioned above.
13. A new air-raid siren was installed at the intersection of Donati and Franklin Streets quite near Batthyány Square. There are two sirens along Krisztina Street, one on an apartment on Malinovszky Row at the intersection of Trombitás Street; one on the Museum in Heroes Square. The siren at the Donati and Franklin intersection is mounted on a metal tower some thirty feet high. This siren is an all-green, double-deck type. Another such siren tower is located at the Szent Orbán Square but without the siren, which is probably undergoing repair.

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